

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 – 22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A security system for an electronic device having a memory, the security system comprising means arranged to interact with the electronic device to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the electronic device, and an access system arranged to control access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device.

24. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the means arranged to interact with the electronic device is arranged to interact directly with the operating system.

25. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the means arranged to interact with the electronic device is arranged to interact with a memory management unit of the device.

26. (New) A system as claimed in any claim 25, wherein the memory management system is manipulated to remove references to the acquired memory.

27. (New) A system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the access system is arranged to control access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.

28. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the acquired memory is hidden from the operating system.

29. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23 comprising a filter driver.

30. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electronic device comprises a selected one of a personal digital assistant (PDAs), a mobile telephone and a laptop.

31. (New) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the access system is arranged to protect at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.
32. (New) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the access system is arranged to maintain a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitor the registry settings and reset registry settings where incorrect values are detected.
33. (New) A system, as claimed in claim 23, wherein the memory acquired, is used to store the encryption/decryption key or keys of the encryption system.
34. (New) A method of protecting at least a portion of a memory of an electronic device comprising the steps of:  
interacting with the electronic device to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the electronic device and controlling access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device.
35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with the operating system.
36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with a memory management unit of the device.
37. (New) A method as claimed in any claim 36, further comprising the step of manipulating the memory management unit to remove references to the acquired memory.
38. (New) A method as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the step of controlling access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.

39. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of hiding thee acquired memory from the operating system.
40. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the steps of protecting at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.
41. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising the steps of maintaining a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitoring the registry settings and resetting registry settings where incorrect values are detected.
42. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine and encoding a program of instructions for interacting with an electronic device to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the electronic device and for controlling access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device.